CAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 17.18
TITLE: MUCUS CLEARANCE DEVICES

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(a)(1)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

A. March 1, 1994, for cystic fibrosis.

B. March 13, 1995, for COPD (chronic bronchitis and emphysema) and other mucus producing lung diseases.

C. February 21, 2003, for the Modified Vest™ Airway Clearance System.

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

HCPCS Level II Code S8185

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Mucus clearance devices are designed to clear mucus secretions from the lungs of patients with mucociliary clearance impairment.

B. Some mucus clearance devices resemble a combination of a smoker's pipe and a referee's whistle. It consists of a hardened plastic mouthpiece at one end, a plastic perforated cover at the opposite end, and a valve on the inside created by a high-density stainless steel ball resting in a plastic circular cone.

C. Other bronchial drainage systems include an air oscillator and an inflatable vest and uses high-frequency chest wall oscillations, which also clear mucus from the airway wall. This type of system is a mechanical form of chest physiotherapy used as an alternative to conventional chest physiotherapy in patients with cystic fibrosis.

III. POLICY

A. Reimbursement of the mucus clearance device includes patients with cystic fibrosis, COPD (which encompasses both chronic bronchitis and emphysema), and other mucus producing lung diseases.

B. The mucus clearance device used must be FDA approved. Coverage begins upon the date of FDA approval.

END OF POLICY